

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 12668 01 OF 02 011704Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----032432 011712Z /50

R 011650Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6702

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 12668

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS TO DEFENSE FOR SECRETARY BROWN AND
ASD MCGIFFERT AND USMISSION NATO FOR AMBASSADOR BENNETT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UK MARR MASS
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY MULLEY ON DEFENSE
ISSUES

SUMMARY: IN 29 JULY DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR, DCM
AND POLITICAL-MILITARY ATTACHE, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
ILBERT. COOPER AND CORNFORD)
TOUCHED ON A NUMBER OF DEFENSE ISSUES HE CONSIDERED
IMPORTANT, PARTICULARLY HIS CONCERN ABOUT LACK OF TRAFFIC
ON THE "TWO-WAY STREET," CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER
CONSTRAINTS, THAT THE MRCA TORNADO AIRCRAFT IS SELECTED
BY CANADA AND THE CRUISE MISSILE. US SIDE STRESSED NEED
TO MAINTAIN DEFENSE SPENDING TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT
POSSIBLE, THOUGH MULLEY REFERRED TO UK EFFORTS AS OUT-
STANDING IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES.
MULLEY ALSO EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO HAVE SECRETARY
BROWN VISIT UK AS HMG'S GUEST. END SUMMARY.

1. MULLEY UNDERLINED THE BRITISH INTEREST IN PROGRESS
ON STANDARDIZATION ISSUES, THE THIRD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
INITIATIVES AT THE LONDON NATO SUMMIT. NOTING THE WARM
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 12668 01 OF 02 011704Z

WELCOME ACCORDED THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN STANDARDI-
ZATION, MULLEY SAID THE BRITISH ARE ANXIOUS TO FOLLOW-UP
TO EXTENT POSSIBLE IN REALIZING EARLY TANGIBLE PROGRESS
IN THIS AREA. THERE WAS GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT WORK
IN THE INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP (IEPG) WAS
PROCEEDING SLOWLY. PENDING INITIATION OF A TRANSATLANTIC
DIALOGUE, IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE

IMPORTANT AT THE WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT MEETING NEXT MAY FOR THE ALLIES TO SHOW SOME VISIBLE PROGRESS IN THE AREA OF STANDARDIZATION. CORNFORD NOTED THAT OTHER THAN MRCA THERE WAS NO NEW EUROPEAN ARMS PRODUCTION PROGRAM THAT OFFERED A POSSIBILITY FOR AN AMERICAN BUY OF A EUROPEAN SYSTEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT WOULD TAKE A NUMBER OF YEARS BEFORE AN AGREED IEPG MULTINATIONAL EUROPEAN PROGRAM LIKELY TO INTEREST THE US COULD EMERGE. THUS, BRITISH ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WAYS TO REFLECT PROGRESS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION--APART FROM FURTHER US SALES TO EUROPEAN ALLIES WHICH WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT MEET TWO-WAY STREET REQUIREMENTS.

2. MULLEY EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT HE AND HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE APPARENT LACK OF TWO-WAY TRAFFIC ON US-UK RECIPROCAL DEFENSE PROCUREMENT. LINKING THIS DISSATISFACTION SPECIFICALLY TO THE PROBLEM OF GETTING AN ADEQUATE OFFSET FOR A UK BUY OF SUB-HARPOON, MULLEY SAID HE WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN CABINET IF HE CANNOT CONVINCE THEM OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF A SUBSTANTIAL US BUY OF UK-PRODUCED EQUIPMENT. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST SUBCONTRACTS, ARGUING THAT THE SYMBOLIC AND POLITICAL VALUE OF THE US SELECTING A BRITISH PRODUCT IS, AT LEAST INITIALLY, AS IMPORTANT IF NOT MORE SO AS THE MONETARY VALUE OF THE ORDER. MULLEY'S FEAR IS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LONDON 12668 01 OF 02 011704Z

THAT WITHOUT EARLY EVIDENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL TWO-WAY STREET PROGRESS, NOT ONLY WILL HE FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO CARRY THROUGH POLITICALLY MOD DESIRE TO PURCHASE SUB-HARPOON BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE WILL BE UNABLE TO CONVINCE COLLEAGUES OF THE CREDIBILITY OF US INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS STANDARDIZATION IN GENERAL AND THE US-UK MOU IN PARTICULAR. MULLEY IS PARTICULARLY HOPEFUL THAT THE IMPROVED LK VERSION OF SPARROW, THE XJ-521 SKYFLASH MISSILE, WILL BE SELECTED. HE MENTIONED SUCH OTHER BRITISH ITEMS AS JP-233, BL-755, AND THE 81 MM MORTAR AS EXAMPLES OF EQUIPMENT THE BRITISH CONSIDER AS HAVING A REASONABLE PROSPECT OF SUCCESS IN BEING SELECTED BY THE DOD.

3. MULLEY ALSO SAID HE CONSIDERED THE PROSPECTS FOR MRCA BEING SOLD TO CANADA WERE FAIRLY GOOD. HE EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE US "NOT PRESS THE COMPETITION TOO HARD.." WHILE MULLEY AND HIS COLLEAGUES RECOGNIZE THAT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO DEFENSE OR NATO.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 12668 02 OF 02 011705Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----032454 011722Z /41

R 011650Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 12668

EXDIS

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE UNDOUBT-
EDLY MAKE A STRONG ARGUMENT FOR A COMMON US-CANADIAN
SOLUTION TO FILL CANADA'S NEED FOR A NEW FIGHTER AIR-
CRAFT, MULLEY IS HOPEFUL THAT MRCA BE ALLOWED A FAIR
OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE, GIVEN THE CLOSENESS OF THE US-
CANADIAN BILATERAL DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER
ISSUE, MULLEY UNDERLINED THE DIFFICULTIES OF CONTROL
AND CONSTRAINT SINCE THE PRESSURES FROM LDCS FOR ARMS
ACQUISITION WOULD NOT ABATE. MOREOVER, ANY MARKETS NOT
COVERED BY THE US, BRITISH OR FRENCH WOULD DOUBTLESS BE
THE OBJECT OF SOVIET INTEREST. HE SAW LITTLE LIKELIHOOD
THAT THE SOVIETS COULD BE CONSTRAINED EFFECTIVELY, AND
ALMOST PLACED THE FRENCH IN THE SAME CATEGORY. ACCOR-
DINGLY, MULLEY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING
AGREEMENT AMONG ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. HE ALSO ASKED
SPECIFICALLY HOW THE US ENVISAGED THE SCENARIO FOR
DISCUSSION ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER AND THE US SIDE
INDICATED THAT IT ASSUMED AN INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
ON NATIONAL PRACTICES WOULD TAKE PLACE IN DUE COURSE.
DISCUSSION ON THIS POINT CONCLUDED WITH A LENGTHY
EXCHANGE ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS CONTROL POLICY
WHICH US SIDE CHARACTERIZED AS DERIVING FROM A STRONG US
COMMITMENT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF ARMS CONTROL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 12668 02 OF 02 011705Z

AREAS AS A RESULT OF THE PRESIDENT'S VERY STRONG COMMITMENT TO COMING TO GRIPS ON THESE ISSUES.

5. ON CRUISE MISSILES, FOLLOWING REVIEW OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS, MULLEY EMPHASIZED THAT THE UK WANTED TO MAINTAIN ITS OPTIONS AND TO BE KEPT ABREAST OF US VIEWS.

6. MULLEY ALLUDED TO RECENT INTERNAL FIGHT THE PRIME MINISTER, OWEN AND HE HAD HAD WITH LEFTWINGERS ABOUT DEFENSE SPENDING. HE ASSURED US THAT NONE OF THEM WOULD SERVE A GOVERNMENT WHICH PURSUED THE KIND OF DEFENSE CUTBACKS RECOMMENDED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STUDY. DRAWING ON STATE 174110, AMBASSADOR UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING DEFENSE EFFECTIVENESS, THOUGH MULLEY REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE DEFENSE BUDGET REMAINED UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE AND THAT BY ANY STANDARD OF ALLIANCE COMPARISON, OTHER THAN THE US, THE UK WAS CARRYING ITS SHARE.

7. COMMENT: MULLEY'S INDICATION THAT FEELINGS IN THE CABINET AND THE LABOR PARTY ON THE ISSUE OF RECIPROCAL PROCUREMENT ARE RUNNING HIGH AND WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES UNDERSCORES THE CURRENT POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF A UK BUY OF SUB-HARPOON WITHOUT ADEQUATE EVIDENCE OF TWO-WAY STREET TRAFFIC. WHILE THERE IS NOTHING NEW ABOUT UK DISSATISFACTION CONCERNING THE SLOW PROGRESS OF THE US-UK MOU, IT IS CLEAR THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL, THEREFORE, AT THIS STAGE IF DOD FOUND A UK ITEM TO BE SUITABLE FOR US USE AND IF A SELECTION DECISION COULD BE MADE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. BASED ON VIEWS EXPRESSED TO US, US RECIPROCITY WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IN IMPELLING THE IEPG TOWARD PREPARING FOR A TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LONDON 12668 02 OF 02 011705Z

BREWSTER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DEFENSE OR NATO.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, STANDARDS, PROCUREMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON12668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770275-0245
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708111/aaaadqjp.tel
Line Count: 213
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f9192250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1435631
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY MULLEY ON DEFENSE ISSUES SUMMARY: IN 29 JULY DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR, D
TAGS: MARR, MASS, UK, US, (MULLEY, FREDERICK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f9192250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009